SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister with regard to the point that a number of Tribunals were set up to ensure speedy realisation of the money and in a number of cases, it was found that those courts were not working properly. Will the hon. Minister assure the House that these Tribunals will be asked to do their work expeditiously so that repayment can be made?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have absolutely no hesitation in answering this question in the affirmative. The Government is concerned with the NPA level of the banks. The DRTs have been set up to reduce the level of NPAs. We are going to strengthen the existing DRTs so that they can perform their duties in a much better fashion. I would like to take the House into confidence and say, Sir, that the amendment of the DRT Act is under the active consideration of the Government. We want to set up more DRTs so that we can attack the problem of NPAs vigorously in the years and months to come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Development of Civil Aviation Facilities in Northern Parts of the Country

*126. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Southern part on India was better developed than the North regarding airports and connectivity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to bring Northern part at even Keel in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. Region wise airports and stations connected are as under:

Region	Airports	Stations connected
Northern	31	19
Western	26	16
Southern	26	13
Eastern	37	15

(b) and (c) Do not arise. Different airline-operators take decision regarding routes depending upon the commercial viability, traffic potential and availability of aircraft etc.

Uniform floor sales tax and value added tax

*127. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken recently on uniform floor sales tax and value added tax at the Chief Ministers' and Finance Ministers' Conferance held in New Delhi in November, 1999; and

(b) when these decisions would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In the Conference of Chief Ministers and Finance Ministers held on 16th November, 1999, it was decided unanimously that all the States and Union Territories will implement uniform floor rates of sales tax as recommended by the Committee of State Finance Ministers with effect from 1st January, 2000. It was also decided that VAT will be implemented by all the States and Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2001.